

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This facility is likely to be provided in 1994.

Airlink with South Africa

7073. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have airlink with South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). south Africa appears to offer a good commercial opportunity. However, a decision on establishment of an airlink would be subject to establishment of diplomatic relations, and there after conclusion of an Air Services agreement.

Conversion of F.M. Transmitters into Relay Transmitters

7074. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert all originating and non-originating local radio FM transmitters into relay transmitters;

(b) whether such a step will not deprive the local people from the participation; and

((c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). do not arise.

[Translation]

Akashwani Mithila (Darbhanga) Centre

7075. SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) since when the details of Akashvani Mithila (Darbhanga) Centre was set up, its transmission capacity; and the language-wise time allotted for their transmission;

(b) the time by which its capacity will be increased and the expenditure involved; and

(c) the time by which news will be broadcasted in Mithili to facilitate the people especially uneducated rural people living in Tarai regions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Darbhanga station of All India Radio was commissioned on 2nd February, 1976. This station with a transmitter of 10 KW (Medium Wave) broadcasts, per month, spoken word programmes in different languages and dialects as under:

<i>Language/dialects duration</i>	<i>Hrs.</i>	<i>Mts</i>
1. Urdu	29	00
2. Maithili	13	30
3. Bhojpuri	02	00
4. Hindi	27	40
5. English	00	40
6. Sanskrit	00	50

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the transmission capacity of AIR, Darbhanga.

(c) There is no proposal, at present, to introduce news bulletins in Maithili.

[English]

Mini Steel Plants in Madhya Pradesh

7076. SHRI MANKU RAM SODHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of entrepreneurs/companies has applied for issue of letters of intent for setting up mini steel plants around Bailadila iron-pore factory in Bastar district and outside it in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Essar Company has sought permission for laying pipe-line for the transportation of iron-ore fine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 has removed 'iron and steel' from that list of industries reserved for the public sector and

also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. Government approval for industrial licence to set up steel plants in the private or joint sector is required only if the location is within 25 kms of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per the 1991 census. No such application has been made to Government for any location in madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d). M/s. Essar Investments Ltd. have proposed laying a pipeline for transportation of Iron ore fines/concentrate from their proposed beneficiation plant at Bailadila in Madhya Pradesh to their proposed pelletisation plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Officers of the concerned State Governments have been authorised by the Central Government to perform the functions of the Competent Authority under the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 to undertake necessary action for conducting survey, etc. in this connection.

T.V. Serial 'Bible'

7077. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: